after arrived; but instead of entering the court they took their seats in an adjoining room. Half an hour passed over, and still the court was not opened, and the course intended to be pursued was then whispered about.

The regulations of the Act of Parliament require that a court shall consist of not less than six commissioners; and as the solitary four remained in the court for an hour without a quorum being formed, the Act declares that such intended court shall stand adjourned.

The Secretary (Mr. Woolryeh) then addressed the numerous parties who were waiting for admission, and informed them that the court was adjourned until Wednesday next. The commissioners who remained in the room were Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Hawes, Mr. Bain, Dr. Southwood Smith, Mr. Banfield, Mr. Hodgson, Sir H. de la Beche, and Mr. Johnson.

This proceeding elicited comments not of the most favourable description against the parties who had thus evaded the making of a court, and thereby "shirked" a question involving considerations of importance to the ratepayers at large.

We would recommend commissioners, whatever their opinions may be, not to venture a second time on such a left-handed move, or the public may be led to give a verdict *without* a trial!

A Court was held on Thursday; Sir John Burgoyne in the chair. A letter was read from Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney in reference to his plan of purifying sewers by means of a steam jet, in which he stated generally that his plan is to withdraw all offensive effluvia from the sewers to a given point, and replace it by fresh air, so that the men might be enabled to go into them and flush them or clean them, and if necessary then to decompose and destroy the objectionable gases, as they escape, by a particular method of combustion.

This led to a long conversation, and it was ultimately agreed "that the Works Committee be authorized to take the proposition by Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney into consideration, and to incur an expense not exceeding 25*l.* for an experiment in the Friar-street sewer."

A letter was received from Mr. Brushfield, Chairman of the Whitechapel Union, stating that cholera had broken out in Dorset-street, in which there were a great number of overflowing cesspools, and as the ownership of the houses was disputed, calling upon this Court to relieve and cleanse them, as the parochial authorities were unable to levy the amount in consequence of the difficulties as to whom the expenses should be charged.

Mr. Leslie and Dr. S. Smith were opposed to this Court relieving the parochial officers of what was clearly their duty to perform, they having ample funds in hand to pay for the same.

Mr. Chadwick and others were of opinion, that in cases of emergency some assistance ought to be rendered, and it signified little, as the money was to come out of the pockets of the ratepayers, by which body the work was performed.

It was at length agreed, "That the surveyors of the district be directed to communicate with the Board of Guardians, and be authorized to lend them the aid of any machinery or workmen belonging to the commission for the purpose of cleansing the places in question, on the payment of the usual charges."

A letter was received from Mr. Hogg, Clerk of the Works at Buckingham Palace, setting forth that opposite the palace the main King's Scholars'-pond sewer was charged with deposit 18 inches in depth, and offensive odours were exhaled therefrom. Referred to the surveyor to report immediately thereon.

A report was presented by Mr. G. Donaldson, on the operation of sewage manure on certain lands that had been irrigated by it during the latter part of last and the first part of the present year. It stated that the lands so irrigated had produced a double crop of grass, and on the corn lands there had been an improvement in value of not less than 30 per cent., and taking its operation generally on the land, he estimated the increased value from 40s. to 50s. per acre. The report was accompanied by a long list of charges incurred for these experiments, amounting altogether to 757*l.*

Mr. Leslie moved that the report be printed, and taken into consideration on a future day.

Mr. Chadwick, as an amendment, moved that the amount be paid at once, and felicitated the ratepayers and agriculturists on the results that had been arrived at, which had settled the value of sewage manure. The general results had proved that 100 tons of liquid manure could be distributed at a cost of 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. per acre, and its effects had been highly satisfactory on every description of land.

Mr. C. Johnson was of opinion that, ultimately, not less than half a million sterling profit would be derived from the sale of manure, to say nothing of the advantage of the purification of the Thames.—Mr. Leslie said they had never heard of the report before, and therefore its consideration ought to be postponed. He then went into a variety of statements as to the value of the manure, and mentioned that a friend of his had paid 2*l.* 10s. per week for sewage manure, but upon investigation it turned out that he had only been supplied with Thames water.

Mr. Lovick explained that this arose from a party inserting a house-drain into the Sewage Company's pipe, and who had temporarily stopped it with clay that had not been removed.—Report deferred.

Some other business was disposed of, but the court was finally "counted out."

Books.

The Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture, with an explanation of Technical Terms. By MATTHEW HOLBECHE BLOXAM. Ninth edition. London: Bogue, Fleet-street. 1849.

THIS admirable manual does not now need recommendation from us, but we may mention that in this, the ninth edition, the text has been enlarged and many woodcuts added. Mr. Bloxam mentions in the preface that a German translation of his book has been published at Leipzig.

We cordially recommend it to all desiring introductory information on the subject of which it treats. The engraved illustrations are nicely executed.

Miscellanea.

ROSHERVILLE GARDENS.—When nature provides cliffs, water, trees, varied surface, and a magnificent prospect, very little art, well applied, will suffice to produce a fine result. We had associated with "Rosherville Gardens," near Gravesend, no other idea than that of shrimps and cigars, and were not prepared for such a charming scene as we found them present when accidentally led to visit them last week. We will not say much about the imitation Tudor Hall there (a very large apartment), but even from this a valuable hint may be gained, and that is, as to the use of looking-glass. To take the end of the hammer beam of the roof on each side slight upright supports are introduced, thus dividing the apartment into three aisles. This, of course, if apparent, would contradict the apparent construction of the roof, and to avoid this the upper part of each upright is *cased with looking-glass*, which considerably lessens the defect. The lower part of the upright is made to serve for hat pegs, &c. Of course we do not allude to this to lead to the imitation of such an arrangement of roof, but as an ingenious expedient applicable in more legitimate positions. What we are speaking of, however, are the gardens, and these really are very pretty.

COMPENSATION CASE.—The site, at Sheffield, chosen by the Duke of Norfolk as promoter of the projected new markets, includes the extensive area of the Tontine Hotel, and as a wide difference arose as to compensation, the point was referred to arbitration. The site contains 3,502 square yards, and is held under a lease from the duke for 99 years, to expire in 1983,—rent 20*l.* per annum. The proprietors, seventeen survivors, claimed 15,500*l.* Mr. W. Flockton, architect, valued it at that amount, with a reference to improvements to cost 2,200*l.* and increase the value to 612*l.* 16s. a-year in all, worth, by the usual annuity tables, 16½ years' purchase. Mr. J. Harrison, architect, concurred in this valuation, as nearly did Mr. F. R. Jones, of Huddersfield, land valuer. For the duke, Mr. W. Fowler, land agent, was called, and valued the property at 6,138*l.*, including 558*l.* for compulsory sale, and estimating the net income at 300*l.* 17s. Mr. H. Holt, of Wakefield, land valuer, and Mr. H. M. Wood, of Nottingham, architect, concurred. The umpire, Mr. Foster, awarded 7,720*l.*, and 243*l.* 12s. costs.

M. GERENTE, the French glass painter, who has executed some windows in Ely Cathedral, and seemed to be warmly taken up by some leading men in this country, has been carried off by the cholera in Paris. Two other French artists in glass have been with us lately with strong letters, and have been canvassing for commissions. Their works, so far as we saw, afforded no substantial reason for employing them to the prejudice of our own artists.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—The Great Western appear to have offered a dividend of 2 per cent. only for the last half-year, leaving a balance of 18,000*l.* odds under head of receipts. The solicitor to the Company is said to have 'misappropriated' a sum of 45,000*l.* belonging to his constituents.——The opening of Windsor extension of the South-Western is likely to be obstructed for some time by the snapping of the cast iron girders of one of the arches of the bridge which crosses the Thames near Eton College. The masonry and brickwork of the piers are built on caissons of cast iron, driven into the bed of the river by means of Dr. Potts's patent process, and the superstructure above the masonry is of cast iron. One of the piers, in consequence of the great weight, appears to have sunk several inches, thus causing the snapping of the girder in question. Fears are entertained that the caissons will sink still further, it being supposed that they are now chiefly resting on a soft bed of clay.——The contract for constructing the Chepstow-bridge, for the South Wales line, has been taken by Messrs. Smith and Willey, of Liverpool, engineers.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—The London company have purchased Mr. Bain's patent for Great Britain, which is said to increase the rapidity of communication from 65 to 1,000 letters per minute.——*Herapath* complains of the personal interest of the railway management in certain patents as a main cause hitherto operative to the injury of the public interest in this useful invention, as well as to that of the shareholders themselves. "If it happens," he observes, "as we need not say it does—that the first patents in which all these managers and officials are interested are not the best, that they are far inferior in utility and economy to others subsequently brought out, we are enabled to perceive great evil in directors, &c., participating in the profit of such patents. The shareholders are injured and the public are injured. The shareholders' interests are sacrificed by the extension and the continuance of plans much more expensive than others. It is the interest of the directors not to adopt anything cheaper. The public interests suffer, in higher charges than need be being maintained, and in convenience. The public are charged, perhaps, 12s. 6d. where 3s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. would be ample remuneration by the improved apparatus, and beyond that the facility of communication is not so great."

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—The foundation-stone of new baths and washhouses, for the working classes resident at Miles Platting, Manchester, was laid, according to the local *Spectator*, on Thursday week. The population of the suburb are indebted, it seems, to Sir Benjamin Heywood for their present prospect of a cheap luxury. The estimated cost will be 2,000*l.* The building is being erected by Mr. Marmaduke Burnell, and will be 160 feet in length and 49 feet in breadth. It will contain fifteen baths for males, and eight for females; also a dwelling-house. There will be a plunge-bath 27 feet 8 inches long and 16 feet wide, with dressing-stalls, &c. The washhouses will be five in number, one (in the spirit of a recent advice in THE BUILDER) for the cleansing of infected clothes exclusively. The drying-room will be 19 feet by 16 feet 9 inches in dimensions, and will be heated by steam-pipes. The whole is to be conducted under the eye of Sir Benjamin's agent, and will be ready for use, it is thought, in four or five months.

OXFORD TOWN COUNCIL.—BLIND TENDERS.—At the town-council held a few days ago, the following fourteen tenders were opened for new water-wheels, pumping machinery, &c. at the City Water Works. Messrs. Easton and Amos, engineers:—

Hunter and Bow, Middlesex	£670	0	0
Vulcan Foundry, Warrington	650	0	0
Winder and Co., Moreton-in-the-Marsh	602	0	0
Jukes and Co., London	593	19	6
Lampitt, Banbury	545	0	0
C. and W. Earl, Hull	541	9	0
Cochrane and Co., Dudley	530	0	0
Bearcroft and Co., Leeds	496	0	0
Loyd and Co., London	475	0	0
Sturge and Co., Bradford	470	6	2
Stobert and Co., Newark	460	0	0
Lee and Taylor, Oxford	450	0	0
Beaumont, Whitechapel, London	410	5	4
Bather and Co., Leeds	346	0	0

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